

**EDP 312: MYTHS & MYSTERIES OF MEMORY**  
**Fall 2016, Unique # 10623**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00AM-12:15PM, SZB 330**  
**The University of Texas at Austin**

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*Office hours:* Wednesdays 3:00-4:00PM  
and by appointment

Teaching assistant:

Office:

Email:

*Office hours:* By appointment

### **Course Overview**

In this course, you will learn about the science of memory by taking a tour through the many ways in which memory influences everyday life. We will critically evaluate widely believed myths about memory and try to explain mysteries of memory. In the process of gaining a better understanding of memory, you will acquire skills and knowledge that you can apply in your own life. When you have completed the course, you should be able to:

- 1) Describe how human memory works (and why it sometimes fails)
- 2) Apply your knowledge of human memory to explain everyday phenomena
- 3) Understand and interpret scientific research on human memory

This course relies heavily on collaborative learning. As such, you will be assigned to small groups at the start of the semester, and group assignments will change after each unit in the course. Class on most Tuesdays and Thursdays will consist of a mix of lecture, individual activities, and group activities. At the end of most classes, there will be an individual exercise called You Utilizing Key Knowledge (YUKK), which will focus on the material covered that day in class. Attendance is not required, but it is highly unlikely that you will do well in this course if you consistently miss class.

Outside of class, there will be three group projects (one for each unit of the course) and one independent project. In order to prepare for class, you will complete a pre-class assignment on most weeks. This assignment will usually consist of readings and/or videos, but occasionally other activities will be assigned. Every pre-class assignment will require you to produce something (e.g., answer some questions, write a brief reaction, etc.) in order to get credit.

Feedback is critical to learning and thus highly valued this course. You will be given feedback about your performance on all assignments. However, it is

also expected that you will provide feedback. For example, you will also be asked on each YUKK to give feedback about some aspect of your experience in the class (e.g., what you found interesting or boring, what you did or did not understand, etc.). You will also be expected to provide feedback to your fellow students as you learn together in groups.

### **Website and Communication**

This course has a Canvas site associated with it (<http://canvas.utexas.edu/>). Canvas will be used to post announcements, course documents, assignments, supplementary materials, and lecture slides. Please check the site regularly. If you have problems with computer access, please let me know immediately so we can make other arrangements.

The best way to reach me outside of class is via email. I try to respond to email as promptly as possible; if 24 hours have passed without a response, please feel free to re-send the message. I would be happy to meet with you individually, so please come talk to me during office hours or make an appointment for another time.

### **Research Participation Requirement**

All students registered for this course must complete a research participation requirement through the Educational Psychology Department subject pool. To do so, you must either complete 5 credits worth of EDP subject pool studies or the alternative writing assignment (a five-page paper about a research article). Please note the deadlines below:

- To participate in studies, you must first activate your SONA account online at <https://utexas-edp.sona-systems.com>. Activation instructions will be sent to your official email address during the second or third week of classes.
- Studies will be available beginning on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. The sooner you sign up for studies, the larger selection you will have.
- To fulfill the requirement through research participation, you must complete 5 credits of subject pool studies by midnight on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise, you must write the alternate assignment.
- The alternate writing assignment will be posted on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> and it is due by midnight on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

If you have questions about your participation in the EDP subject pool or about the alternate assignment, please visit the following website:

[http://www.edb.utexas.edu/education/departments/edp/subject\\_pool/students/](http://www.edb.utexas.edu/education/departments/edp/subject_pool/students/)

If you still have questions, please email the Subject Pool Coordinator, Hien Nguyen ([edpSubjectPool@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:edpSubjectPool@austin.utexas.edu))

## Evaluation

You will have the opportunity to demonstrate your learning and earn credit toward your grade on a variety of assignments. All of these assignments should be completed individually, except the Group Projects.

***Pre-Class Assignments*** will be given to prepare you for class and they must be completed by 11:59pm on Monday in the week that they are assigned. Usually, these assignments will consist of a few readings and/or videos along some questions to answer online via Canvas; however, they will occasionally take other forms. Each of the 10 assignments will be worth 5 points.

***You Utilizing Key Knowledge (YUKK) exercises*** will be given at the end of most classes via Canvas. Each YUKK will consist of short answer questions about the material covered in class that day and will be worth 5 points. If you answer more than half of the questions correctly, you will receive the full credit; otherwise, you will receive zero points for that YUKK. If you miss class, you will not be able to take the YUKK later. However, you will drop your two lowest YUKK scores, so you can miss class or mess up taking a YUKK twice without any consequences for your grade. You will also have the option of making up an additional two YUKKs by completing a writing assignment of my choice.

***Group Projects*** will be assigned in each of the three units in the course. Each of the three projects will be worth 50 points. Points for working in a group are available only to people who contribute to the project and everyone must sign off on the final product. If you cannot work with your group for some reason, then you can do the project by yourself to earn credit. Instructions for each project will be given in advance so that your group has plenty of time to work on it together.

An ***Independent Project*** will be assigned mid-way through the semester. The project will consist of writing a paper in which you explore a myth or mystery of memory. The independent project will be worth 100 points.

***Unit Exams*** will be given at the end of each unit during the course. Each exam will be worth 200 points. Exams will consist of short answer questions. Although each exam will focus on material from that unit, the tests will be cumulative, so all the material covered up until that point is fair game. There are no make-ups for unit exams. If you miss an exam for any reason or are not satisfied with your grade, you can take the optional comprehensive final exam and substitute the score on the final for the missed unit exam or your lowest unit exam grade.

***The Final Exam*** will be given on Monday, December 12, 2:00-5:00pm. It is optional and can be substituted for a unit exam.

Here is a list of the evaluation components with corresponding total possible points and percentage of grade:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Possible Points</u>	<u>% of Grade</u>
Pre-Class Assignments	50	5%
YUKKs (best 20 of 22)	100	10%
Independent Project	100	10%
Group Projects	150	15%
Exams (best 3 of 4)	<u>600</u>	<u>60%</u>
Total	1000 pts	100%

IMPORTANT: If you wish to contest the grading of any item, you will be asked to fill out an Item Review Form, which is provided in the files section on the course Canvas site.

Grades will be distributed according to the following scale:

A:	93-100%	930-1000 points
A-:	90-92.9%	900-929 points
B+:	87-88.9%	870-899 points
B:	83-86.9%	830-869 points
B-:	80-82.9%	800-829 points
C+:	77-79.9%	770-799 points
C:	73-76.9%	730-769 points
C-:	70-72.9%	700-729 points
D:	60-69.9%	600-699 points
F:	<59.9%	<599 points

Please check your point status after each exam or assignment. Please keep your records up to date because late assignments will not be accepted. I also recommend that you keep a copy of all group work so that we have a way to verify your work if there are discrepancies.

## Schedule

Date	Assignments	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1 8/25			Course Introduction
Week 2 8/30 & 9/1	Pre-Class Assignment #1, Questionnaire	Memory Basics <i>YUKK 1</i>	Effective Learning <i>YUKK 2</i>
Week 3 9/6 & 9/8	Pre-Class Assignment #2	Metacognition <i>YUKK 3</i>	Tricks & Mnemonics <i>YUKK 4</i>
Week 4 9/13 & 9/15	Pre-Class Assignment #3	Mnemonists & Exceptional Individuals <i>YUKK 5</i>	Memory Training & Artificial Enhancement <i>YUKK 6</i>
Week 5 9/20 & 9/22	Pre-Class Assignment #4	Memory & The Brain <i>YUKK 7</i>	Sleep & Memory <i>YUKK 8</i>
Week 6 9/27 & 9/29	Group Project #1	<b>EXAM 1</b>	Emotion & Memory <i>YUKK 9</i>
Week 7 10/4 & 10/6	Pre-Class Assignment #5	Flashbulb Memories <i>YUKK 10</i>	Autobiographical Memory <i>YUKK 11</i>
Week 8 10/11 & 10/13	Pre-Class Assignment #6	Eyewitness Memory <i>YUKK 12</i>	Memory Development in Childhood <i>YUKK 13</i>
Week 9 10/18 & 10/20	Pre-Class Assignment #7	Repression & Recovered Memories <i>YUKK 14</i>	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder <i>YUKK 15</i>
Week 10 10/25 & 10/27	Group Project #2	Amnesia <i>YUKK 16</i>	<b>EXAM 2</b>
Week 11 11/1 & 11/3	Pre-Class Assignment #8	Misconceptions & False Knowledge <i>YUKK 17</i>	Attitudes & Beliefs <i>YUKK 18</i>
Week 12 11/8 & 11/10	Pre-Class Assignment #9	Collaborative Remembering <i>YUKK 19</i>	Collective Memory <i>YUKK 20</i>

Week 13 11/15 & 11/17	Pre-Class Assignment #10	Externalized Memory <i>YUKK 21</i>	*Film Screening*
Week 14 11/22 & 11/24	Group Project #3	TBD	<i>No Class - Thanksgiving</i>
Week 15 11/29 & 12/1	Independent Project	Prospective Memory <i>YUKK 22</i>	<b>EXAM 3</b>

**The FINAL EXAM is Monday, December 12th, 2:00-5:00PM**

## University Requirements

***Special Needs:*** The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. To determine if you qualify, please contact the Dean of Students at 471-6259; TTY 471-4641.

***Religious Holy Day Observance:*** If an assignment or exam falls due on a day when you are observing a religious holy day, we will work with you to find a time to submit the work.

***Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:*** The University of Texas at Austin takes academic dishonesty and plagiarism very seriously. Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. For further information, please visit <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/academicintegrity.html>.

***The twelfth class day*** is **September 9**, which is the last day to possibly get a refund if you drop a class.

***Safety information:*** Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

*Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.*

In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by The University of Texas at Austin Police Department or Fire Prevention Services office.

Other important Emergency  
Information: <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/preparedness/>

**Behavior Concerns Advice Line:** Use this resource to help fellow UT members about whom you have concerns BCAL – 232-5050